

WILLMAR CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BUILDING  
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

September 1, 1999  
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Lester Heitke. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Heitke, Council Members Verna Kelly, Denis Anderson, Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Douglas Reese, Nancy Houlahan, Jim Dokken, and Rick Fagerlie; Present 9, Absent 0.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Public Works Director Mel Odens, Finance Director Steven Okins, Police Chief Jim Kulset, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Additions to the Agenda included removing Planning Commission of August 11, 1999, from the table, Library open house, and Airport Fly-In Show.

Council Member Reese offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda, which included the following: City Council Minutes of August 18, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of August 23, Building Inspection Report for July, and Planning Commission Minutes of August 25, 1999. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried.

Council Member Kelly offered a motion to remove the Planning Commission Minutes of August 11, 1999, from the table. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried. Planning and Development Services Director Peterson clarified the issues presented at the last meeting, noting the area next to the proposed tower will be leveled and improved. It was further noted the owner of the tower may offer two other companies allowance to use tower and these companies may need a small building at the base of tower. Following discussion, Council Member Kelly moved to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of August 11, 1999, with Council Member Anderson seconding the motion, which carried.

The Finance Committee Report of August 23, 1999, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Kelly. There were six items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 The Committee reviewed the status of the Civic Center/Blue Line Building Capital Project. Staff presented a recommendation that the remaining unspent funds, approximately \$2,600, be transferred to the present parking lot project. The Committee was recommending to the Council pass a resolution to transfer the funds as recommended.

Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Anderson, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Willmar, to authorize the Finance Director to make the following changes within the C. P. Civic Center Fund:

Increase:	Appropriations	\$2,620.00
	C. P. Parking Lot	

Decrease:	C. P. Blue Line Building	\$2,620.00
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Dated this 1st day of September, 1999.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 2 The Committee reviewed the second quarter report with the Rice Trustees. The Committee expressed concern over the percentage of return so far in 1999 and directed staff to review the Trust allocations and report back to the Committee. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 Staff presented total estimated bonding costs to the Committee. The two levels of bonding were \$5,075,000 and \$6,310,000 depending if the Lazy/Crazy River option was included. Members of the Aquatic Task Force were present to discuss the options that have been presented to the Council for their review.

The main item that needed to be decided was the structuring of the ballot question: should the question be one question or two. Following review and discussion, it was moved to recommend to the Council that the recommendation of the Task force be put on the Ballot referendum as a two-part question:

1. Should the City issue \$5,075,00 G.O. Bonds to finance the construction of an aquatic center; and
2. Should the City issue \$1,235,00 of additional bonds for the construction of the Lazy/Crazy River option. And that these questions answered through a Bond Referendum to be held on November 2, 1999.

Council Member Reese informed the Mayor and Council that he reconvened the August 30, 1999, Aquatic Center Task Force and reconfirmed that the basic principals and proposal should remain intact. A phased project providing the basic needs could be accomplished beginning with \$3,300,000 in capital costs. Mr. Reese explained options of phasing the Kandi Mountain, reducing the size of the parking lot plus various play features. Gary McDowell, Chair of the Task Force, discussed the positives of securing private funding, planning for future addition, and offering something new every two years.

Following discussion, Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Reese, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 6, Noes 2 - Council Members Christianson and Dokken voted "no."

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that the Chief Official in charge of voting be directed to present to the voters of the November 2, 1999, Special Election, the question of constructing an Aquatic Center and selling \$3,944,000 General Obligation Bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the question on the ballot be worded in the following fashion:

Should the City of Willmar finance and maintain an Aquatic Center project with the sale of \$3,944,000 General Obligation Bonds?

Dated this 1st day of September, 1999.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 4 Staff informed the Committee that tentative dates for the City's Truth-in-Taxation hearings of December 1, and December 15, 1999, could be finalized because of no conflicts with the County or School. The Committee was recommending to the Council to set these dates for the Truth-in-Taxation meeting dates. Council Member Kelly moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee with Council Member DeBlieck seconding the motion, which carried.

Item No. 5 The Committee reviewed the summary section of the 1999 Budget. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 6 The following items were placed on future agendas: Senior Nutrition Funding and the Year 2000 Budget. This matter was for information only.

The Finance Committee Report of August 23, 1999, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, and carried.

The Mayor and Council discussed the special election on the Aquatic Center Project. Resolution No. 3 was introduced by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, read by Mayor Heitke, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the following buildings be designated as the official voting locations for the Elections in 1999:

FIRST WARD:	1 <sup>st</sup> Precinct	Senior Citizens Center 624 North Highway 71
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Precinct	Lakeview Apartment Building 300 North 7th Street
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct	Ridgewater College 15th Avenue Northwest
	4 <sup>th</sup> Precinct	Senior Citizens Center 624 North Highway 71
SECOND WARD:	1 <sup>st</sup> Precinct	St. Mary's Catholic Church 713 Southwest 12th Street
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Precinct	Vinje Lutheran Church 1101 Willmar Avenue Southwest
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct	Christian Reform Church 1708 Southwest 8th Street
THIRD WARD:	1 <sup>st</sup> Precinct	Cardinal Apartments 407 Southeast Lakeland Drive
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Precinct	Highland Apartments 115 East Becker Avenue
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct	Municipal Auditorium 311 West 6th Street
FOURTH WARD:	1 <sup>st</sup> Precinct	First Baptist Church 1000 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Southeast
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Precinct	Calvary Lutheran Church 301 Olena Avenue
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct	Redeemer Lutheran Church 1401 Southwest 6th Street

Dated this 1st day of September, 1999.

/s/ Lester Heitke  
MAYOR

/s/ Kevin Halliday  
Attest: CITY CLERK

The Labor Relations Committee Report of August 25, 1999, was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Christianson. There were three items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 The Labor Relations Committee meeting was closed for the purpose of discussing guidelines and strategies for upcoming employee contract talks. The Committee met with the Mayor, members of the Municipal Utilities Commission and Rice Hospital Board, and labor representatives Frank Madden and Paul Ness. The meeting was reopened, and this matter was for information only.

Item No. 2 Mr. Paul Ness presented the preliminary results of the City's Pay Equity and Compensation Study. The Committee reviewed proposed position classification work values, pay grades and point ranges, and a point-to-grade conversion chart including a sample pay/step structure. It was noted the preliminary report did not include data for the Municipal Utilities. The Committee received the Pay Equity Report for information and will consider adoption of the job values when all data is made available. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 Using the hierarchy and range schedules from the preliminary Pay Equity Report, the Committee was recommending to the Council that the City Administrator be authorized to fill the position of Fire Chief/Marshal, and that the compensation range be set at \$40,920 - \$53,208. Council Member Christianson moved to approve the recommendation of the Labor Relations Committee with Council Member Reese seconding the motion, which carried.

The Labor Relations Committee Report of August 25, 1999, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Reese, and carried.

The Mayor and Council discussed the plat for Eagles Landing Twin Third Addition. Planning and Development Services Director Peterson explained that the Eagles Landing Twin Third Addition is a simple lot split intended to accommodate a twin-home. Staff review indicated that existing assessments should be paid off or reapportioned. It was noted the Planning Commission approved the plat on August 25, 1999. Council Member Kelly moved to approve the plat for Eagles Landing Twin Third Addition on the condition that assessments be paid off or reapportioned. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried.

City Administrator Schmit informed the Mayor and Council that the coordinators for the "Celebrate Art! Celebrate Coffee!" festival have requested permission to close Becker Avenue on Saturday, September 18, 1999. Following discussion, Council Member Reese moved to approve the request with Council Member Christianson seconding the motion, which carried.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance Committee and Aquatic Center Task Force, September 7; and Public Works/Safety Committee, September 8, 1999.

The Mayor and Council briefly discussed upcoming events as follows: Fly-In at the Airport on September 5, and the Library grand opening on September 18, 1999.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Kelly, and carried.

Attest:

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MAYOR

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SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL